KELLY-SPRINGFIELD TIRE PLANT,
CEMENT HOUSE
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland
Allegany County
Maryland

HAER No. MD-102-C

HAER
MD,
1-CUMB,
4C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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Location: 701 Kelly Road
Cumberland
Allegany County, Maryland

USGS Cumberland, Maryland Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.690380.4390060

Date of Construction: 1923

Engineer: S. Diescher & Sons, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Architect: Edward Necarsulmer, New York, New York

Present Owner: Allegany County Commissioners
County Office Complex
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The Kelly-Springfield Tire Plant is a technologically and historically significant industrial complex in Allegany County. The facility was in operation from 1921 until 1987 and served as Kelly-Springfield's only manufacturing plant between 1925 and 1962. The plant was critical to the development of Cumberland during the twentieth century, and is an important record of an early tire manufacturing plant.

The cement house was one of the original buildings constructed at the Kelly-Springfield Tire Plant. The building contained the equipment used in mixing rubber cement. Rubber cement was used during the tire building process.

Project Information: Plans for the redevelopment of Kelly-Springfield Tire Plant as the Riverside Industrial Park include demolition of the cement house. The cement house will be removed to provide access to adjacent buildings. Documentation of the building to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record was prescribed as a part of a Memorandum of Agreement negotiated among the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Allegany County Board of Commissioners, and the Maryland Historical Trust to mitigate removal of the structures. This documentation was undertaken in May and June 1995 in partial fulfillment of that agreement.

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Cement House

Architectural Description

The cement house is a one-story brick structure located south of the header building. The cement house occupies an L-shaped ground plan and rises to a sawtooth roof. The structure is constructed of brick with a concrete block addition extending from the rear (west) elevation. Most machinery has been removed from the building.

The brick core of the cement house measures 69'-0" by 60'-0" and is divided into four interior rooms. Three rooms, each measuring 49'-0" by 20'-0", are oriented on an east-west axis. The rooms are divided by interior brick walls. Sliding metal fire doors are found at both ends of each room. The roof over these three rooms is a three-part sawtooth roof that provided natural light and ventilation. The roof consists of concrete slabs supported by a steel frame truss system exposed on the building's interior. Interiors measure 12 feet in height up to the trusses. Industrial sash, center-pivot windows occupy the north faces of the sawtooth roof. The room along the eastern side of the building measures 40'-0" by 20'-0" and is oriented on a north-south axis. This eastern room terminates in a flat concrete roof. Floors throughout the structure are poured concrete.

The original 12-light industrial sash windows are intact along the north elevation of the building. Openings on the south elevation are infilled with brick. Ventilation fans occupy the two openings on the east elevation.

The rear addition is a concrete block structure terminating in a corrugated metal shed roof. The roof is supported by a steel frame. The addition is oriented on a north-south axis and spans the width of the three center rooms. The addition consists of one open room. Three entries are located along the addition's west elevation. Two entries house wood sliding doors; the center entry includes a metal overhead door.

An open shed-roof porch shelters the entries along the building's east elevation. The porch is constructed of wood and supported by steel posts.

Historical Evolution

The physical evolution of the cement house corresponds to the three major periods of historical development of the plant. These periods are discussed below.

Early Tire Manufacturing in Cumberland (1921-1942). The cement house was constructed in 1921 for the purpose of mixing rubber cement. Rubber cement was used during the tire building process to apply the tread to the tire carcass. The treads were produced as flat pieces of rubber; the cement was applied to the ends of each tread so the tread would remain in place until the tire was cured.[1] Due to the flammability of the rubber cement, the original plans for the plant called for a separate cement house.

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[1] Howard H. Peterson, personal interview, 12 May 1995.

Ammunition Manufacturing (1943-1945). During World War II, when the Allegany Ordnance Plant was in operation, the building served as a storage facility. The building was used for bullet salvage and oil storage.[2]

Return to Tire Manufacturing at the Cumberland Plant (1943-1987). Rubber cement operations resumed when tire manufacturing was reinitiated at the plant during the 1940s. Modifications to the cement house during this period included the construction of the concrete block addition on the rear of the building and a porch along the front elevation. Both of these alterations occurred circa 1950. The porch was used to store mobile cement tanks that were used to deliver rubber cement to the factory building.[3]

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[2] Allegany Ordnance Plant Site Plan, Kelly-Springfield Engineering Company, 25 January 1943.

[3] Howard H. Peterson, personal interview, 12 May 1995.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Engineering Drawings:

Drawings in the collection of the Allegany County Commissioners, Cumberland, Maryland:

1943, November 15. Cement House Floor Plan and Layout. One sheet.

1943, January 25. Allegany Ordnance Plant. One sheet. Charles H. Tompkins Company.

1957, September 26. Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, Plot Plan. One sheet. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio.

B. Historic Views (All historic views courtesy of Kelly-Springfield Tire Co., Corporate Headquarters, Cumberland, Maryland):

View northeast of Kelly-Springfield Tire Plant. Ca. 1935.

C. Interviews:

Peterson, Howard H. Interview by Eliza H. Edwards and Patrick Giglio. Tape recording, 12 May 1995. Allegany County Commissioners, Cumberland, Maryland.